

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bone plate comprising: adapted-
~~for use in securing a joint portion to a long portion of an~~
~~osteotomically separated long bone, the bone plate having a~~
longitudinal axis, a bone-contacting bottom side and a top side
with at least one two complex aperture apertures, each complex
aperture comprised of at least one set of two overlapping holes
having an offset of a given distance ~~therebetween~~ centers thereof
and oriented along the longitudinal axis for securing the plate
to ~~the long~~ a bone, ~~[[,]]~~ such offset defining a necked down
portion between the overlapping holes, each overlapping hole
having female threaded surfaces formed therein adapted to lock
with threads of a corresponding bone screw, ~~the bone plate~~
~~including a second hole for securing the joint portion to the~~
~~long bone portion, the second hole positioned substantially~~
~~offset from the longitudinal axis.~~

2. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim
1~~[[,]]~~ wherein the apertures positioned so as to be on a side of
the point of osteotomy when applied to bone include wide bevels
on a far end of the aperture away from the osteotomy site.

3. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 1, ~~wherein bone~~
~~plate further includes~~ adapted to receive at least one locking
bone peg having a threaded head which locks with the threads of a
corresponding overlapping hole of one of the complex apertures ~~an~~
~~aperture~~, thereby better ensuring rigid fixing of a fracture when
using additional pegs having a body without threads.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 1[[,]] wherein ~~the bone plate includes at least one of the complex apertures has round hole having a corresponding countersink, the countersink being axially offset from an orientation perpendicular to the top surface by a predetermined angle.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 18 [[5,]] wherein the predetermined angle is approximately 25 degrees.

7. (Currently Amended) A bone plate ~~of complex form~~, suitable for use in osteotomy, the bone plate ~~having~~ comprising:

- (a) a least two axes on which bone screw receiving holes are located including a longitudinal axis and an axis substantially angled therefrom, and
- (b) a bone-contacting bottom side and a top side with at least ~~one~~ two complex aperture apertures, each complex aperture comprised of at least one set of two overlapping holes having an offset of a given distance between centers thereof and oriented along the longitudinal axis for securing the plate to ~~the long a~~ bone, [[,]] such offset defining a necked down portion between the overlapping holes, each overlapping hole having ~~female~~ threaded surfaces formed therein adapted to lock with threads of a corresponding bone screw.

8. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 7[[,]] wherein the apertures positioned so as to be on a side of the point of osteotomy when applied to bone include wide bevels on a far end and near end of the apertures with respect to the osteotomy site.

9. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 7, ~~wherein bone plate further accommodates~~ adapted to receive at least one locking bone peg having an unthreaded body and threaded head which locks with threads of a corresponding threaded aperture of the bone plate, thereby better ensuring rigid fixing of a fracture.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The bone plate of claim 7 wherein a distance between the sets of overlapping holes is defined to optimize either closing or opening of wedge femoral osteotomies.

12. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 11 wherein ~~where~~ the distance is approximately 15 mm.

13. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 12 wherein ~~where~~ a distal end of the bone plate forms a natural curve corresponding to the shape of ~~the~~ a distal femur in order to minimize the potential of plate overhang.

14. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic kit including:

- a) ~~[[.]]~~ a bone plate ~~of complex form~~, suitable for use in osteotomy, the bone plate having a longitudinal axis, a bone-contacting bottom side and a top side with at least two ~~three~~ complex apertures, each complex aperture comprised of at least one set of two overlapping holes having an offset of a given distance between centers thereof and orientated along the longitudinal axis for securing the plate to a ~~long~~ bone, such offset defining a necked down portion between the overlapping holes, each overlapping hole

having female threaded surfaces, the holes communicating through the plate from the top to the bottom side, and wherein, when applied to a bone, one ~~set of two adjacent overlapping holes of a complex aperture is located so as to lie on either [[a]] side of an osteotomy site; the bone plate including a second hole for securing the joint portion to the long bone portion, the second hole positioned substantially offset from the longitudinal axis; and~~

b) [[.]] at least one bone screw engageable with the bone plate.

15. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 14~~[[.]]~~ further comprising a drill guide having a main drill guide surface and opposite end portions, one end portion of which is securely engageable with the ~~female~~ threaded surface of a hole in the bone plate so as to securely hold the drill guide in a desired orientation with respect to the bone plate for stabilizing a drill used in an orthopedic procedure.

16. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 14~~[[.]]~~ wherein~~[[.]]~~ when [[a]] the bone plate is applied to a bone, at least one complex aperture ~~set of two overlapping holes is located so as to lie on opposite sides one side of the osteotomy site and at least one set of two adjacent overlapping holes is located so as to lie on an opposite side of the osteotomy site and the~~ a third complex aperture is aligned at approximately 60 degrees with the longitudinal axis.

17. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 1, ~~further comprising at least two sets of complex apertures each comprised of at least one set of two adjacent overlapping holes each having female threaded surfaces,~~ wherein[[,]] when applied to a bone, at least one complex aperture set of two adjacent overlapping holes is located ~~so as to lie on opposite sides~~ one side of the an osteotomy site and ~~at least one set of two adjacent overlapping holes is located so as to lie on an opposite side of the~~ osteotomy site.

18. (New) The bone plate of claim 5 wherein the countersink is axially offset from an orientation perpendicular to the top surface by a predetermined angle.